

**MEMBER'S HOBBY ENABLES
DEALER TO FIND CLIENT**

(Condensed from an article by Ernest Kehr in the New York Herald Tribune for July 1942. Courtesy of Charles Metz.)

Because of perfins a New York dealer was able to reach a client in real detective fashion when accepted methods had failed.

A few years ago a New York dealer received a letter, in answer to his ad, in which the writer signed his name but failed to give an address. Later he mentioned the incident to a collector and showed him the letter and envelope. The envelope was franked with a two cent presidential perforated with these letters: RICO(in C)/LD and canceled at Church Street Annex office.

Seeing this clue the collector suggested that the dealer send the envelope to Dr. Louise D. Larimore. Within two days the envelope was returned with a note identifying the concern using these initials. A telephone call to the firm located the writer and the dealer was able to purchase the material offered.

Dr. Larimore now affiliated with the Greenwich (Conn.) Hospital, formerly was a resident of New York and during her stay there, was instrumental in organizing the Women's Philatelic Society, now regarded as the country's foremost feminine stamp collector's group.

Her philatelic interests embrace several fields but like most general collectors she has a specialty in which she can do research without great cost. Several years ago Dr. Larimore started collecting perforate initial stamps and since they are outcast her friends gladly gave her all they had. At first she collected all that came her way, later she began to classify and identify them as to the firms using each design. At present she has what is probably the largest collection of its kind and as few have not been identified it is possible for her to tell exactly what firm uses each design.

In addition to United States issues she has several albums of foreign perforate initial stamps. The foreign are divided into two groups, those punched by business firms, and those punched by the governments for use on official business. Most Br. Colonies use OH/MS an abbreviation for "On His Majesty's Service." Many foreign governments employ

the practice of perforating initials instead of overprinting, and while they are not listed in U. S. catalogs Dr. Larimore urges collectors to watch for such items, as they are relatively scarce and listed at premium prices in foreign value guides.

(Charles Bein, our English member has 28,000 perfins with 6,700 different dies all on stamps of Great Britain.—Ed.)